

## What's Inside ...

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 Army shooters take over one-third of Olympic slots.

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# Army helps host Golden Gloves championship

By *Rae A. Higgins and Kerry Larsen*  
*Army News Service*

DETROIT — The Army stepped into the ring in a partnership with Golden Gloves to help host the organization’s boxing finals earlier this month.

As a result, twelve young amateur boxers won national titles May 6 in the 2000 U.S. Army Golden Gloves National Tournament of Champions, held at Detroit’s Joe Louis Arena.

More than 300 Golden Gloves boxers, representing 30 different regional teams in 12 weight classes, competed in the weeklong preliminaries leading up to the final bouts.

Army boxers fared well in the competition.

Pfc. Rondale Mason of Columbus, Ohio, made his way to the finals before losing to Anthony Thompson in the 147-lb. weight class championship.

Sgt. DeAndrey Abron of Youngstown, Ohio, was ranked number five nationally in the first quarter of 2000 by USA Boxing. He boxed his way to the semifinals, where he met Arthur Palac. Palac defeated him and ultimately went on to win the 178-lb. title.

Both Mason and Abron are currently stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., and are members of the U.S. Army boxing team and Army World Class Athlete Program.

“Who knows what could be next for some of these fighters,” said Maj. Gen. John S. Caldwell, the senior Army representative at the finals. “Some of these young men may go on to be Olympic champions and have successful pro careers. It’s exciting to see their heart, determination and drive.”

Caldwell commands the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command in Warren, Mich., a suburb of Detroit. When the 12 bouts concluded, he presented the winners and runners up with trophies on behalf of both



Photo courtesy of [www.goldengloves.org](http://www.goldengloves.org)

*The weeklong tourney had penty of bouts and plenty of Army world-class athlete competition.*

Golden Gloves and the Army.

“The Army is proud and excited to partner with Golden Gloves,” he said. “On behalf of soldiers stationed around the world, I salute all the fighters who boxed in the preliminaries and the 24 young men who made it to the finals. I’d especially like to congratulate the 12 who won national titles here tonight.”

The Army-Golden Gloves partnership was announced March 17 at a luncheon held in Detroit. Both organizations encourage the values of honor, courage and discipline, Army officials said.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command leads the partnership on the Army’s behalf.

The long-term partnership has two components. First, the Army is the title partner for the National Tournament of champions. Second, Golden Gloves allows the Army access to each of its franchises and the gyms within them to use them as a recruiting outlet on a

local level.

As part of the teaming initiative, the Army would like to be considered a resource — on a local basis — to assist in hosting regional competitions, mentoring, and any other activity that will allow Army recruiters the chance to interact with boxers and others affiliated with the Golden Gloves.

Lt. Col. James B. Rhoads, Great Lakes Recruiting Battalion commander, said, “We are pleased because this is an excellent blending of values. The Army is looking for physically fit, crime-free, drug-free prospects, which match Golden Gloves’ values. In addition, the self-discipline instilled in these athletes will serve themselves and the Army well.”

Since 1923, Golden Gloves has helped inner city youth achieve athletic and personal triumph through discipline and structure. There are currently 32,000 registered Golden Gloves athletes and 300 gyms nationwide.

Some of boxing’s champions started with Golden Gloves: Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Cassius Clay, George Foreman, Mike Tyson, Tommy Hearn and Oscar de la Hoya, to name but a few.

For more information on Golden Gloves, visit <http://www.goldengloves.org>.

*(Editor’s note: Higgins is assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, Mich. Larsen is assigned to the Great Lakes Recruiting Battalion, Lansing, Mich.)*

### The 2000 champions are:

Ron Siler, Cincinnati, 106 lbs., Rashiem Jefferson, Pa., 112 lbs., Jose Aguiniga, Calif., 119 lbs., Tyronne Harris, Mich., 125 lbs., Urbano Antillon, Calif., 132 lbs., Jesse Byers, Knoxville, 139 lbs., Anthony Thompson, Pa., 147 lbs., Sechew Powell, Wis., 156 lbs., Eric Kelly, Wis., 165 lbs., Arthur Palac, Mich., 178 lbs., Devin Vargas, Toledo, heavyweight division, Steve Vukosa, New England, super heavyweight division.

## Briefly

## Sports, and leisure, shorts

### Free fishing day

The Arizona Game and Fish Department hosts a Free Fishing Day on June 10.

Anglers are encouraged to contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department nearest them for a list of activities and details.

### Bowling Center closed

Desert Lanes and Jeannie’s Diner will be closed Sunday so the Directorate of Installation Support can replace a transformer. Signs are posted to inform customers.

### Open Recreation hours

Monday and Tuesday: Closed  
 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 6-10 p.m.  
 Saturday: 1-10 p.m.  
 Sunday: 1-7 p.m.

Open Recreation is available for all youth from ages 6-18.

Activities include basketball and skating in the gym, pool, ping-pong, fuseball, video games and planned activities. For more information, call YS at 533-3205.

### Skate Park summer hours

Monday and Tuesday: Closed  
 Wednesday and Thursday: 3-9 p.m.  
 Open Skating  
 Friday: 3-9 p.m. Teens Only  
 Saturday and Sunday: 1-6 p.m. Family Skating

Cost is \$2 per day, all youth under 18 must have a signed waiver on file and all skaters and skate-boarders must wear helmet, kneepads and wrist guards. Equipment is available at the Rollin’ Thunder Skate Park for rent.

### Cheerleading clinic

All youth ages 7 and up who are interested in cheerleading for the upcoming fall sports season have the opportunity to attend the Buena High Cheer Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$8 and the event will be held in the Buena High Gymnasium. For more information, call 452-8571.



*The tournament mixed brutal boxing with the elegant surroundings of Detroit’s Joe Louis Arena.*

# Army shooters halfway to Olympics

By Paula J. Randall Pagán  
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Army shooters dominated the first of two Olympic Selection Matches, held here April 19 to May 5, and claimed dibs on more than one-third of the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team slots.

Ten members of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit are currently in first or second place in their respective events.

The Army shooters who are halfway to the Olympics are: Maj. Michael E. Anti and Sgt. Jason A. Parker in Free Rifle Three Position; Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Tamas and Capt. Glenn A. Dubis in Free Rifle Prone; Staff Sgt. Kenneth A. Johnson in Air Rifle; Sgt. 1st Class James T. Graves in Skeet; Sgt. 1st Class Theresa E. DeWitt in Women’s Double Trap; Sgt. David R. Alcoriza in Men’s Double Trap; Sgt. Joetta R. Dement in Women’s Trap; and Sgt. Armando R. Ayala in Running Target.

Also, two others are running very close

in the Pistol Trials. Sgt. 1st Class Daryl L. Szarenski is only three-tenths of a point from contention in Free Pistol and four-tenths of a point away in Men’s Air Pistol and Maj. Steven M. King is close behind Szarenski in both matches.

Capt. Rhonda L. Bright is also in the hunt for the Women’s Air and Sport Pistol slots, making the finals in both competitions, placing third and seventh. Staff Sgt. Carl W. Trompeter II also finished a respectable fourth in the Rapid Fire Pistol Match.

Sgt. Michael E. Schmidt Jr. and Sgt. 1st Class Shawn C. Duloher, who finished fourth and fifth respectively in the Skeet Match, are still very competitive in their pursuit for Olympic slots. Also, DeWitt, who was third in Women’s Trap, and Alcoriza and Sgt. 1st Class Bret E. Erickson who were fourth and sixth in Men’s Trap are not to be counted out.

Also in the running in the Running Target race is Sgt. 1st Class Lance D. Dement,

who finished third.

Numerous USAMU soldiers made the finals and are still in the hunt in the Rifle Trials. Additional finalists were: Dubis, Johnson and Staff Sgt. Eric A. Uptagrafft in Three Position; Sgt. Timothy R. Manges in Three Position, Prone and Air; Maj. Stephen C. Goff in Three Position and Air; Maj. Robert E. Harbison in Prone; and Parker, Sgt. Troy A. Bassham and Capt. David A. Johnson in Air.

“Now they have to deal with the pressure for several more weeks,” USAMU Deputy Commander Robert W. Aylward said. “This will motivate them to go to the range and train for six hours a day, six to seven days a week. Hopefully, this will just energize them to work harder and perform better in June in Atlanta.”

The second Olympic Selection Match that will ultimately choose the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team is scheduled for June 21 to July 1 in Atlanta at the Tom Lowe Shoot-

ing Grounds, formerly called the Wolf Creek Olympic Shooting Center.

Shooters’ scores from that match and the one held here will be added together and the top one to three shooters, depending on the discipline, will make the Olympic Team.

Forty-one USAMU soldiers, including 11 former Olympians, are competing against 400 of the country’s top shooters for the 29 slots on the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team.

The Olympics will be held Sept. 15 to Oct. 1 in Sydney, Australia. After the Opening Ceremony Sept. 15, the Olympic Shooting Competition will take place Sept. 16 to 23 at the Sydney International Shooting Centre Park, which has a capacity of 7,000 for the Games. The Olympic Closing Ceremony is Oct. 1.

(Editor’s note: Paula J. Randall Pagán is with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Public Affairs Office.)

## Scout Screenroom

By Sgt. Cullen James  
Scout Staff

Currently available for rental:

### END OF DAYS

**Universal (Directed by: Peter Hyams)**  
**Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne, Kevin Pollak, Udo Kier.)**  
**Rated R: Adult Situations, Language, Nudity, Sex, Violence.**

**Family Factor:** Too mature for immature audiences. Sex and violence plunge this film into a mature audiences only realm.

I don’t know why this film got such poor reviews. It wasn’t the best action or suspense film, but it did a decent job at both. Critics had knocked it for both poor screenplay and acting. I found both to be reasonably good - well within what I expected.

The film has Jericho Cane (Arnold Schwarzenegger), a beaten down ex-cop, as the reluctant hero of End of Days a chilling, horrific thriller set at the cusp of the millennium. When the ultimate personification of evil is unleashed upon the world, Cane is unwittingly drawn into a heart-stopping supernatural game of cat and mouse. Now as the countdown to the end of days approaches, all that stands in the way of mankind’s destruction is the salvation of one woman, whose fate comes to rest in Cane’s shaky hands.

Schwazenegger does a commendable job as Cane and both Gabriel Byrne, as the Devil, and Kevin Pollak, as Cane’s partner (Byrne and Pollak are reunited from *The Usual Suspects*), really help tie the film together. There’s kind of a *The Prophecy* meets *The Usual Suspects* feel to the movie although the film is not as good as either of those movies.

Exciting action sequences, a decent

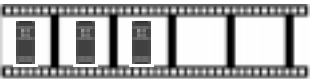


Photo copyright Universal Pictures

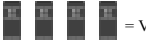
**Schwarzenegger and Pollak are on the hunt during “End of Days.”**


script and apocalyptic images keep you into the movie. You’re never on the edge of your seat, nor are you really left guessing what’s going to happen. But it’s a pretty good flick nonetheless.

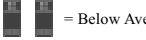
I give the film: Three bibles.

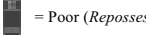


 = Excellent (*The Exorcist*)

 = Very Good (*The Prophecy*)

 = Average (*Lord of Illusions*)

 = Below Average (*The Prophecy III*)

 = Poor (*Repossessed*)

### BROKEDOWN PALACE

**20th Century Fox (Directed by: Jonathan Kaplan)**  
**Starring: Claire Danes, Kate Beckinsale, Bill Pullman, Lou Diamond Philips.)**

**Rated PG-13: Adult Situations, Language, Mild Violence.**

**Family Factor:** Adults themes and subject matter may be too intense for younger kids, but it should be okay for teens.

Brokedown Palace received horrible reviews from the critics - thinking it was uninspired and dry. Again, I have to disagree with their opinion. I found myself pulled into this movie. In fact, I wasn’t even planning on reviewing the film, but after my wife started watching it I changed my mind.

Claire Danes stars as Alice, a wild, living-on-the-edge teenager. To celebrate her high school graduation, she and her best friend Darlene (Kate Beckinsale) have decided to treat themselves to an exotic trip. Although Alice and Darlene have told their parents that they’re headed to Hawaii, the two girls’ actual destination is Bangkok (“Las Vegas without parents and laws,” Alice enthuses to the more cautious Darlene).

Under the magical and golden Thailand sun, Alice and Darlene have the time of their lives. But things begin to change after they meet a seductive and handsome Australian. Both girls are smitten with Nick, who eventually asks Darlene to spend the night with him - much to the surprise of the more outgoing Alice, who must fight growing feelings of resentment and anger about her friend’s romantic conquest.

When Nick proposes a quick side trip to Hong Kong, Darlene convinces Alice to come along. Nick’s real plans, however, are anything but romantic. At the Bangkok airport, the two girls are shocked when heroin is found in their luggage. As they are surrounded by Thai police and DEA officers, Alice and Darlene are caught up in a maelstrom of hysteria, panic and confusion, each suspecting the other of a dark betrayal.

Their mutual suspicion intensifies during their first year - of a 33-year sentence

- in a hideous Thai prison dubbed the “brokedown palace” by other inmates.


There is really good acting here on the part of Danes and newcomer Beckinsale. Pullman does a great job as the girls reluctant attorney and Philips has a decent cameo as a member of the U.S. embassy in Bangkok.


The movie is far from enjoyable - it’s compelling. You feel for these girls although their stupidity begs you not to. There’s even a slightly surprising and emotional ending.


Bad ratings from national critics aside, this is a great movie and very much worth your time.


I give this film: four Buddhas.




 = Excellent (*Shawshank Redemption*)

 = Very Good (*The Green Mile*)

 = Average (*Escape from New York*)

 = Below Average (*Crybaby*)

 = Poor (*Actually being in jail*)

### GALAXY QUEST

**Dream Works SKG (Directed by: Dean Parisot)**  
**Starring: Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, Tony Shalhoub.)**

**Rated PG: Language, Mild Violence**

**Family Call:** Maybe this movie is too intense for the real young ones, but generally this is a decent family movie.

I actually agree with the critics on this one. It’s a funny movie, done well, and pokes fun at a movie genre that sometimes

See Screenroom, Page 3



Screenroom from Page 2



Photo copyright Dreamworks SKG

**Recruited for a real space mission almost 20 years after the cancellation of their series “Galaxy Quest” are: Jason Nesmith (Tim Allen, center), (second row) Alexander Dane (Alan Rickman), Gwen DeMarco (Sigourney Weaver); (back row, left to right) Guy Fleegman (Sam Rockwell), Tommy Webber (Daryl Mitchell) and Fred Kwan (Tony Shalhoub) in DreamWorks Pictures’ science fiction action comedy GALAXY QUEST.**

takes itself a little too seriously. Although the film primarily focuses on television science fiction, it takes an occasional pot shot at sci/fi in general.

Four years after the crew of the NSEA Protector donned their uniforms and set off on thrilling and often dangerous missions in space - their series was canceled. Twenty years later, the five stars of the classic ’70s TV series Galaxy Quest are still in costume, making appearances at science fic-

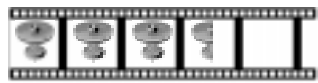
tion conventions for their legions of die-hard fans. But some of those fans are a little more far out than the actors could ever have imagined.

A group of aliens who have mistaken intercepted television transmissions for “historical documents” arrive at a convention and whisk Commander Peter Quincy Taggart (Tim Allen) and his crew into space to help them in their all-too-real war against a deadly adversary. With no script, no director, and no clue about real interstellar travel, the make-believe crew of the Protector has to turn in the performances of their lives to become the heroes the aliens believe them to be.

All the actors in the film take a “tongue-in-cheek” attitude toward their roles, and it works well.

**Note for DVD renters:** the DVD version has a neat featurette, cut scenes, and a great little audio feature that actually lets you watch the movie in the alien’s language.

I give the movie: Three-and-a-half starships.



= Excellent (*Star Trek II*)

= Very Good (*Star Trek The Motion Picture*)

= Average (*Star Trek III*)

= Below Average (*Star Trek IV*)

= Poor (*Star Trek V*)

**LAKE PLACID**  
**20th Century Fox (Directed by: Steve Miner Starring: Bridget Fonda, Bill Pullman, Oliver Platt, Betty White.)**  
**Rated R: Adult Situations, Language, Intense Violence**  
**Family Factor:** Too violent for young ones. Older teens and adults may even be turned off by some of the explosively violent content.

Kind of *Jaws*. Kind of *Alligator*. Kind of *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. But this movie isn’t as good as any of those. The only thing that slightly raises this flick from the trash heap is the fact it has some star power in Bridget Fonda and Bill Pullman, plus a neat character played by Betty White. You ask yourself several times through the movie, “Why? Why did real stars like Fonda, Pullman and White do this movie?” Perhaps they were blinded by the money, but this movie has no redemption in script or action (although those of you who really like gore may like a few of the scenes). I will admit, being a fan of gore, that there were some scenes I found surprisingly gory, but not enough to make me like the flick.

The tranquil setting of Black Lake, Maine is probably the last place you’d expect a gruesome fatality. But then it’s also the last place you’d expect to find a 30-foot, narrow-snouted, multi-toothed, reptilian of the species *Crocodylus*. An eating machine more commonly known as a crocodile.

The thick-skinned interloper and its appetite for humans brings together a group of people perhaps even stranger than the phenomenon they’ve been

called upon to investigate.

Smarting from a recently botched office romance, an emotionally fragile, nature-phobic paleontologist, Kelly Scott (Bridget Fonda), is reluctantly dispatched for her first real field assignment.

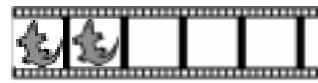
Scott’s big-city manner and obvious distaste for the great outdoors is a constant irritant to the man in charge of the inquest, Fish and Game Warden Jack Wells (Bill Pullman), who would prefer not to be burdened with her help.

Also on the scene is the irascible sheriff Hank Keough (Brendan Gleeson), who would like nothing more than to find the predator and blow its head off.

Landing unannounced in the middle of the action is wealthy and eccentric mythology professor Hector Cyr (Oliver Platt), who steamrolls the team into trying to capture and preserve the elusive creature that is lurking nearby.

Maybe the plot sounds familiar. I’m sure I’ve seen this movie a few other times. Maybe when it was called *Jaws*, or *Jaws II*, or *Jaws III* — you get the picture.

I give this movie: Two geckos.



= Excellent (*Jaws*)

= Very Good (*The Crocodile Hunter*)

= Average (*Creature from the Black Lagoon*)

= Below Average (*Jaws IV*)

= Poor (*Alligator*)

# Forest to host public meeting on National Roadless Initiative

**USDA Forest Service release**

TUCSON, Ariz. - Coronado National Forest officials will host a public meeting regarding the future management of national forest roadless areas across the country.

A meeting to accept public comment will be held June 26, 6-8 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 South Alvernon Way in Tucson.

Forest Service Chief, Mike Dombeck, proposed ending road construction in nearly one quarter of the 192 million acre National Forest System.

The proposal addresses more than 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas and additional unroaded areas on national forests and grasslands. A draft Environmental Impact Statement contains information about the proposal which:

- prohibits new roads in 43 million acres of inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System;
- provides opportunities for additional protection for

the inventories areas and other smaller unroaded areas through local forest planning; and

- defers until 2004 the decision on providing additional protection for an additional 8.5 million acres on the Tongass National Forest.

Written public comment will be accepted until July 17. Comments can also be faxed directly to (877) 703-2494 or mailed to: USDA Forest Service-CAET; Attention: Roadless Area Proposed Rule, P.O. Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122. People can also comment directly at the roadless website, roadless.fs.fed.us.

The proposed rule, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a summary, maps and appendices are available at the roadless.fs.fed.us website. This information will also be available for review at the public meeting, all Forest Service offices and at major public libraries. People can also call the roadless toll-free information number, 1-800-384-7623.

## Unique military road atlas available at PX

**Army Families ACSC PAO**

Military Living has added a new guide to their line of helpful books and atlases. The latest one will be of great assistance to soldiers or family members going to Europe or retirees who are there on vacation.

The title is Military Living’s European U.S. Military Road Atlas, and includes maps of 15 countries in Europe and the Near East with profile data on each country. In addition, there are over 100 detailed location maps showing how to get to U.S. military facilities. The atlas also provides phone numbers for key support services, including temporary military lodging, MWR facilities and more.

Visit their website at <http://www.militaryliving.com> and click on New Publications. There you will find more information on this unique military road atlas. Also, this book is widely available in European military exchanges and at military exchanges and military clothing sales stores in the United States.

By buying at your exchange, not only will you save money on the cost of the atlas, but money will go back into the military recreation community.

For those who can’t find the atlas or live too far from an exchange, mail order copies are available from Military Living at (703) 237-0203.

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**Call The Fort Huachuca Scout at 533-1987**

**or 533-5551.**

# Army cartoonist meets inspiration

By Joe Burlas  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The creator of one of the newest cartoons poking fun at the Army recently met the creator of most enduring Army funnies.

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Baker, author of “Private Murphy’s Law,” met briefly with “Beetle Bailey” author Mort Walker just prior to Walker receiving the Army Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service from Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera May 24.

“Mort Walker has been a real inspiration to me,” Baker said. “In fourth-grade, I got a class assignment to bring in my favorite comic strip — ‘Beetle Bailey’ was the one I cut out. He’s been around forever.”

Through the years, Beetle, Sarge, Otis and General Halftrack from the satirical Army strip have remained some of his favorite funny paper characters, he contin-

ued.

In preparation for his meeting with Walker, Baker created a comic of Pvt. Murphy meeting Pvt. Bailey. He gave the original print and a book of Pvt. Murphy comic strips to Walker. Walker gave him praise for his work and encouragement to keep it up.

“I’ve always wanted to be a cartoonist and Mort Walker is the guy I’ve tried to emulate - he’s the best in the field,” Baker said.

Walker will celebrate the 50th anniversary of penning “Beetle Bailey” in Septmeber. His seven syndicated comic strips appear in more than 1,800 newspapers and have an approximate readership of 200 million people.

Baker, a self-taught artist, created “Private Murphy’s Law” in the early 1990s. The comic strip tells about the mishaps of an Army private in basic training. It started running in Army newspapers last August.



By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Baker

**Sgt. 1st Class Mark Baker, creator of the “Private Murphy’s Law” cartoons, gave “Beetle Bailey” creator Mort Walker an original print of their characters meeting when the two cartoonists met May 24 at the Pentagon.**

# Research Study aimed at comeback of Gould’s turkey

By Rory Aikens  
Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is initiating a research project in southern Arizona that is the next step toward ultimately re-establishing a self-sustaining population of Gould’s turkeys in the state.

Gould’s turkeys were extirpated from Arizona around the turn of the 20th Century and various efforts have been made in the last 20 or so years to try and re-establish these large native birds that historically dwelled in the oak grasslands of southeastern Arizona.

Research Branch Chief Jim deVos explained to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission recently that since 1994, the department has twice tried to re-establish Gould’s turkeys from Mexico to a portion of their historic range.

“These efforts have as yet failed to establish a self-sustaining population of Gould’s turkeys in the Galiuro Mountains,” he said.

However, he explained, during the 1980s the Huachuca Mountains benefited from Gould’s turkey translocations from Mexico and currently harbor a “robust” yet undetermined number of turkeys.

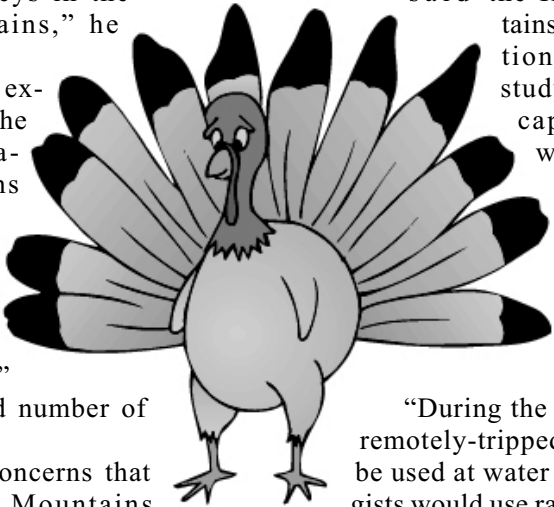
There were concerns that the Huachuca Mountains Gould’s turkeys had hybridized with Merriam’s turkeys (which are found throughout much of Arizona). Those concerns have been allayed because of recent DNA analysis of blood samples taken from the Huachuca turkeys.

Game and Fish biologists are com-

pleting a habitat use study and habitat suitability model of Gould’s in the Huachucas that will assist in providing the biological information necessary toward recovering this native turkey species.

As the next step in the process, Game and Fish biologists are starting a three-year study to do the following:

- \* Estimate the population of turkeys currently inhabiting the Huachuca Mountains;
- \* Determining the number of turkeys it will take for a successful transplant effort;
- \* Evaluate and prioritize other southeastern mountain ranges for future Gould’s restoration efforts.



Research biologist Brian Wakeling said the Huachuca Mountains Gould’s population aspect of the study would require capturing turkeys with rocket nets and walk-in traps so that the birds could be given visible identification marks, and also “radiomarks.”

“During the summer and fall, remotely-tripped cameras would be used at water sources or biologists would use radio sensors to detect the presence of the turkeys over much of the mountain range simultaneously,” Wakeling said.

Wakeling explained that using the remote cameras is a “leading edge” wildlife research method that the Game and Fish research team has refined in the field the past couple of years.

# Scaled quail research project gets go ahead

By Rory Aikens  
Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

There is concern by biologists and hunters about the viability of this state’s scaled quail populations, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department is launching a four-year, \$360,000 research study to provide more biological information to better manage this distinctive game bird.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission on May 18 approved the exhaustive scaled quail study. “Scaled quail harvest has fallen since the 1980s and their distribution seems to be shrinking. Although quail in general are boom-or-bust species, the long-term trend in scaled quail appears to be downward,” explained Research Branch Chief Jim deVos.

Although scaled quail range is declining in the Southwest, it is uncertain to what degree Arizona’s population is being affected,” he added.

Research biologists said that habitat quality might be an important limiting factor for scaled quail. Changes in habitat characteristics that do not favor scaled quail may be occurring in Arizona due to a variety of factors.

“Loss of grassland to climate changes may be occurring. Changes in habitat quality from long-term fire suppression, excessive livestock grazing, and development are likely occurring that negatively affect scaled quail. Such factors need to be identified so that effective management and even possible mitigation efforts can be proposed,” deVos explained.

Research field supervisor Richard Ockenfels said that the habitat requirements of scaled quail, especially when it comes to breeding, nesting, and brood-raising, are poorly understood. “Information from other states may not be applicable to Arizona populations. Also, while the basic life history of scaled quail is somewhat understood, our field biologists lack specific habitat models and other biological tools to assess habitat and identify critical areas,” Ockenfels said.

Ockenfels added that without these biological tools, it is difficult for wildlife managers to plan and implement habitat management and restoration programs to enhance scaled quail populations.

The first year of the study consists of scoping meetings and selecting a steering committee, conducting intensive literature review and preparing an annotated bibliography of scaled quail literature.

Biologists will also be developing a study plan, selecting study sites, and doing pilot work on selected field methods. Years two through four will entail mostly field research.

